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RECENT LITERATURE.

Gage's Microscope and Microscopical Methods.[1]—Some years ago we noticed one of the previous editions of this work, prepared for the use of the Students of Cornell University. The present, the fifth edition, is greatly enlarged and forms a most valuable guide to the microscope as an optical instrument, showing the use of each part, the means of testing and using it, correcting its faults, etc. Following this portion comes some more special directions for its use in spectroscopic and polariscopic work and in photography, together with a chapter on the mounting of slides in which every aspect of the subject, from the measuring of the thickeness of the cover glass to the labelling and storage of the slides is discussed, excepting that the staining and sectioning of the specimen is left for a second part which is announced as in preparation. This second part will deal with the use of the Microscope in Vertebrate Histology, and with the two volumes the student will not often meet with questions of technique in this line which cannot be answered by referring to this vade mecum. The work is well printed and is a credit to Comstock Publishing Company which issues it. It is well illustrated with 103 cuts while the fact that every other page is left blank, allows the student opportunity to add notes. The work will doubtless be used in many other laboratories than that for which it is especially preparared.

Shufeldt on Chapman's Birds of Trinidad.—To the Editors of THE AMERICAN NATURALIST:

DEAR SIRS:—In your issue for April, 1894, p. 332, I find a review of a paper by me on Trinidad birds in which, much to my surprise, the reviewer charges me with an attempt to place all but Passerine birds in the order Macrochires! I had intended in this paper to give the names of the sixteen orders which have representatives in the Trinidad avifauna, and under each order the families which most Ornithologists now believe to belong in it. In a vain endeavor, however, to hurry my paper through the press before sailing on a second voyage to Trinidad, the last half of the copy was unfortunately sent to the printer before the slips giving the names of orders and families had been inserted. I did not see proof and the error was noticed too late for correction.

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[1] The Microscope and Microscopical Methods by Simon Henry Gage. Ithaca, 1894, pp. viii, 165.—$1.50.

The fact that not only the names of orders but also those of *families* are wanting after "Macrochires" and "Trochilidæ," should, I think, have suggested to so practiced a reviewer that there was a *lapsus* somewhere.

It is certainly bad enough to be accused of trying to classify all but the Passeries in one order, but when it logically follows—and in this case it does—that one is also accused of attempting to crowd the same heterogeneous assemblage into the family Trochilidæ I must, in justice to myself, plead not guilty.

Very truly yours,
FRANK M. CHAPMAN.

American Museum Natural History, New York City. May 24, 1894.

Annual Report Minnesota Natural History Survey for 1892.[1]—The important papers incorporated with this report are as follows: The Geology of Kekequabic Lake with special reference to an augite-soda granite, by Mr. U. S. Grant; Report of a reconnoisance in northwestern Minnesota in 1892, J. E. Todd; and Field Observations of N. H. Winchell in 1892. A feature of general interest is a table of comparative nomenclature prepared by the State Geologist. This table gives the Minnesota Strata in order; the stratigraphy of the Wisconsin reports issued under the direction of Prof. Chamberlain; the terms used by the present Michigan survey; and the general terms used by the United States and Cananian geological surveys. These separate series are arranged so that one can see at a glance the supposed equivalents.

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[1] The Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota. The Twenty-first Report, for the year 1892. N. H. Winchell, State Geologist. Minneapolis, 1893.